

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075151  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:RLBRUCE;INR/RAR-DSMITH  
APPROVED BY ARA-JBUSHNELL  
ARA/CCA-WSSMITH  
S/S: WISNER  
AF- W C HARROP  
INR-MR.PACKMAN

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O 231814Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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PAGE 02 STATE 075151

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 075151

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR

SUBJECT: BRIEFINGS OF SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS  
ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

1. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE DISCUSSING CUBA'S CONTINUING MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA WITH PRESIDENTS PEREZ OF VENEZUELA AND GEISEL OF BRAZIL DURING HIS VISITS NEXT WEEK. AS YOU KNOW, THE US IS HIGHLY CONCERNED OVER THE EXTENT OF CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA AND CONTINUES TO URGE AN END TO CUBAN AND SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION THERE AND IN ANGOLA. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. WE HAVE SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO THE CUBANS ABOUT OUR CONCERNS.

2. WE HOPE TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE CUBANS BY INCREASING THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COSTS OF THEIR CONTINUED INTERVENTIONIST ACTIVITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE SKEPTICISM WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER THIRD WORLD MOVEMENTS ABOUT CUBA'S MOTIVES AND NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS IN LIGHT OF ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA.

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3. THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATIONS COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE IF HE COULD INFORM LEADERS OF THE VIEWS OF OTHER IMPORTANT COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHICH ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE NAM AND SEVERAL WHICH FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER HAVE INFLUENCE WITH THE CUBANS. WE ARE THEREFORE ASKING ACTION ADDRESSEES TO MAKE DEMARCHES TO THE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER, OR KEY FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR ON AN URGENT BASIS TO BRIEF THEM ON THE EXTENT OF CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. IF THE EASTER HOLIDAYS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT OR FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE EARLY NEXT WEEK, THEN YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEN.

4. IN MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE YOU SHOULD:

-- NOTE THAT WE ARE MAKING THIS APPROACH AS PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO CONSULT WITH HIS HEMISPHERIC COLLEAGUES ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS OF CONCERN. YOU MIGHT REFER TO HIS ADDRESS TO THE OAS ON PAN AMERICAN DAY LAST APRIL AND HIS REMARKS DURING THE PANAMA CANAL SIGNING CEREMONY LAST SEPTEMBER TO EMPHASIZE THAT YOUR

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-- PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT OR FOREIGN MINISTER A BRIEFING ON THE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA DRAWING ON THE POINTS BELOW:

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CUBAN PILOTS FLEW COMBAT MISSIONS IN SOVIET-SUPPLIED ETHIOPIAN MIGS AND CUBAN INFANTRY, ARMOR AND ARTILLERY UNITS SPEARHEADED THE COUNTER OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOMALIA.

DESPITE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI TROOPS FROM THE OGADEN, CUBAN TROOP STRENGTH IN ETHIOPIA REMAINS IN EXCESS OF

13,000 MEN, AND RECENT CUBAN STATEMENTS HAVE SHOWN NO SIGN OF WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWALS.

THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBER OF CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS AFTER THEIR STATED MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN FURTHER HOSTILITIES IN THE REGION AND IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO REACHING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS.

CUBAN ACTIONS IN ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND INDEED WERE ONLY POSSIBLE WITH FULL SOVIET MATERIEL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

SOME 23,000-25,000 CUBANS MOST OF THEM MILITARY PERSONNEL, REMAIN IN ANGOLA MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER ANGOLA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL. CUBAN TROOPS CONTINUE TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS AGAINST UNITA, AND OTHER NATIONALIST GROUPS OPPOSING THE NETO GOV-  
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THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND RECENT CUBAN STATEMENTS ON RHODESIA SUGGEST THAT CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN FIGHTING IN RHODESIA. SHOULD THIS OCCUR IT WOULD SERIOUSLY DIMINISH THE PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING A JUST AND PEACEFUL BASIS FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

IN ALL, THERE ARE OVER 35,000 CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOME 14 DIFFERENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, BY FAR THE LARGEST NON-AFRICAN MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE CONTINENT.

5. AFTER BRIEFING PRESIDENT OR FOREIGN MINISTER, YOU SHOULD SEEK THEIR VIEWS AND REACTION TO THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, ASKING THEM WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE THE CUBAN MOTIVES AND WHAT THEY SEE AS LIKELY FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THERE.

6. YOU SHOULD ASK HOST GOVERNMENT TO TREAT THIS APPROACH AND THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF THE BRIEFING IN CONFIDENCE. (FYI: WE WOULD NOT WANT THE LOCAL MEDIA TO PORTRAY THESE DEMARCHES AS A HASTILY UNDERTAKEN US ANTI-CUBAN CAMPAIGN OR TO HAVE THE FACTUAL PORTIONS OF THE BRIEFING APPEAR IN THE LOCAL PRESS.) WHAT WE ARE DOING IS EXCHANGING VIEWS ON A MATTER OF GLOBAL IMPORT.

7. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT IMMEDIATE AND SLUGGED FOR THE ATTENTION OF ARA - AMBASSADOR TODMAN. REPLIES WHICH WOULD NOT REACH THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE COB MONDAY, MARCH 27 SHOULD ALSO BE SENT IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE TO CARACAS (MARCH 27-29) BRASILIA (MARCH 29-31) OR RIO DE JANEIRO (MARCH 30-31).

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APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:KDROBINSON

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INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 075151

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 075151 SENT ACTION BRIDGETOWN, BUENOS  
AIRES, GEORGETOWN, BOGOTA, LIMA, SAN JOSE INFO BRASILIA,  
CARACAS, HAVANA, MOSCOW, LAGOS, MONROVIA, ADDIS ABABA, KINSHASA,  
MOGADISCIO, LIBREVILLE, KHARTOUM, LUSAKA, PARIS, LONDON,  
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23 MAR 78

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S E C R E T STATE 075151



EXDIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DEMARCHE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE075151  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780128-0995  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
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**To:** BRIDGETOWN BUENOS AIRES MULTIPLE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014